

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS AND PUBLIC
COMMENT PERIOD FOR DEVELOPMENT OF WATER QUALITY STUDY**

PUBLIC MEETINGS: A Public meeting will be held on Thursday March 4, 2010 at 2pm at the Newsome Human Services Building located at 20103 Princeton Road, Sussex, VA 23884.

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Conservation and Recreation are announcing the draft report of a study to restore water quality for portions of Assamoosick Swamp, unnamed tributary to Assamoosick Swamp, Seacorrie and unnamed tributary to Seacorrie Swamp, Black Swamp, and German Swamp located within Sussex and Southampton Counties. This notice also announces the final public meeting and a public comment opportunity. The draft report will be available on DEQ's website the day of the meetings at: <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/TMDLDataSearch/DraftReports.aspx>

MEETING DESCRIPTION: Final public meetings on a study to restore the recreational use areas of portions of Assamoosick Swamp and tributaries (mentioned above) which are impaired due to bacterial violations.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: Virginia agencies have been working to identify sources of bacterial contamination of portions of the Assamoosick Swamp and its tributaries. These impairments span approximately 34 river miles. These waterways are impaired for failure to meet the recreational (swimming) designated use due to exceedances of the bacterial water quality standard.

| Waterbody | Location | Impaired Length (mi) | Impairment |
|--------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|--|
| Assamoosick Swamp | Sussex | 15.76 | Recreational Use (Swimming) |
| Tributary to Assamoosick Swamp | Southampton | 2.06 | |
| Seacorrie Swamp | Sussex | 6.91 | |
| Tributary to Seacorrie Swamp | Sussex | 1.46 | |
| German Swamp | Sussex | 3.65 | |
| Black Swamp | Sussex | 3.76 | |
| Total Impaired Length | | 33.60 | |

The draft study reports on the current status of the waterbodies via sampling performed by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the possible sources of bacterial contamination. The study recommends total maximum daily loads, or TMDLs, for the impaired waters. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, bacteria levels have to be reduced to the TMDL amount.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax, or postal mail. Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ during the comment period, which expires April 3, 2010.

CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Name: Margaret Smigo – TMDL Coordinator

Fax: (804)-527-5106

Address: VDEQ, Piedmont Regional Office
4949A Cox Road, Glen Allen, VA, 23060

E-mail: Margaret.Smigo@deq.virginia.gov

Telephone: (804) 527-5124